DIALOGUE
The Newsletter of Dubai International Academy
THURSDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2009 | Issue 75
DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
www.diadubai.com
IB World School
Regular Member

GENERAL

FORTHCOMING DATES

Tuesday, 27 October	North Eastern University visit, 2.30 pm - 3.30 pm, SS Meeting Room
Wednesday, 28 - Thursday, 29 October	ES 3 Way Conferences, Elementary School finish at 12 pm
Thursday, 29 October	Elementary School Halloween Parade, 8.15 am
Thursday, 5 November	MYP and DP Progress Reports to be sent to parents
Thursday, 5 November	Deadline for entries to the EAIFL Students Writing Competition
Monday, 9 November	PD Day - KG finish 12 pm, Yrs 1 - 13 finish 1.30 pm
Monday, 9 November	ZAKS School Uniform Sale, main school entrance, 11 am - 2 pm
Wednesday, 11 - Thursday, 12 November	MYP Parent Teacher Conferences, 12 pm - 5 pm
Friday, 13 - 14, Saturday November	Year 13 Weekend Retreat to Khor fakhan, UAE
Tuesday, 17 - Saturday, 21 November	SS THIMUN Singapore
Wednesday, 18 - Thursday, 19 November	DP1 and DP2 Parent Teacher Conference, 12 pm - 5 pm
Thursday, 19 November	PADIA Winter Souk
Sunday, 22 November	Elementary School Art Expo
Thursday, 26 - Sunday, 29 November	Eid Al Adha, Arafat Day
Wednesday, 2 - Thursday, 3 December	UAE National Day
Sunday, 13 December	Secondary School Winter Concert
Monday, 14 December	PD Day - KG finish 12 pm, Yrs 1 - 13 finish 1.30 pm
Monday, 14 December	ZAKS School Uniform Sale, main school entrance, 11 am - 2 pm
Tuesday, 15 December	Elementary School Winter Concert
Wednesday, 16 December	Secondary School Winter Disco
Thursday, 17 December	Last day of school before Winter Break
Friday, 18 December	Hijri New Year
Sunday, 3 January 2010	School resumes after Winter Break

A BUSY YEAR SO FAR

We hope that all our students and parents are well settled into the school routine. DIA continues to focus fully on the academic programme. This month we were also very proud to announce our first DIA Prefect Body and House Captains as well as our established Student Councils. Our schedule of University visits and Career Fairs is now in full swing and has been very well received by our senior students and parents. We are pleased to note that many parents have availed of the opportunity to attend parent information sessions across the PYP, MYP and DP. We hope that you have enjoyed the Art Exhibition, the Music Assemblies and the Book Fair in the Elementary School. We look forward to seeing you at the fast approaching parent conferences for all three programmes.

October saw the first, full Professional Development Day with almost 200 dedicated staff participating in workshops focusing on DIA objectives, philosophy and the improvement of practice. Many of our teachers attended IB workshops and conferences and we have initiated the journey towards CIS-NEASC Accreditation. In keeping with our internationalism, over 1700 of us participated in the STAND UP AGAINST POVERTY campaign and UN Day was celebrated in the Secondary School this week. Together, we also celebrated Eid and Diwali. We continue with our efforts to improve the road situation for our community and thank you for your patience and cooperation. This month also saw the launch of our new and improved DIAlogue. We hope you like the new format and look forward to receiving your comments via diafeedback@diadubai.com.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the Under 14 Girls football team for their magnificent 2 - 0 win against American School of Dubai and wish all of our sporting teams luck in their forthcoming fixtures!

Poonam Bhojani, Director, Dubai International Academy

IMPORTANT NOTES ON FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 3 WAY CONFERENCES, 28 & 29 OCTOBER

On 28 and 29 October, the Elementary School will dismiss classes at 12 pm and will be holding the 3 Way Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences. These conferences provide an opportunity for the student and the teacher to discuss the progress being made with parents. As a PYP school we encourage our students to take pride in, and responsibility for, their work. Our students spend time self assessing work and setting goals in class, therefore the assessment process is more thorough and complete when the student also participates in a discussion and presentation of their progress. 3 Way Conferences which include parents, students and teachers are an excellent way to keep everyone informed. It allows students to see the most significant adults in their lives showing an interest in their learning and demonstrating a commitment to supporting them. Your child should accompany you to the conference.

Appointments will be made using Pick-a-Time and you should have by now received an email with full instructions on how to use this online facility. If you have not received this, please contact the helpdesk@diadubai.com. Please schedule only one appointment with the classroom teacher. Appointments may also be made to meet with the specialist teachers. If you are running late for your meeting, please call our office on 04 368 4111, extension 105 or 108. The teacher may be able to meet with you at a different time to avoid inconveniencing others.

STUDENT FINISH TIMES ON PROFESIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS, 9 NOVEMBER AND 14 DECEMBER

Please note that on the Professional Development Days listed above, KG 1 and KG 2 dismissal will be at 12 pm.
For all other students in Years 1 to 13, dismissal will be at 1.30pm.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLOWEEN PARADE, 29 OCTOBER

Get ready for the invasion of princesses, fairies, pirates, cowboys, super heroes and other characters. The Elementary School will hold the annual parade of costumes for Halloween on Thursday, 29 October at 8.15 am. Students may come to school in fancy dress or in a costume on this day. Costumes that do not obstruct movement or the ability to do classroom activities are encouraged. Please avoid costumes with weapons or that are excessively frightening to the younger students, those may be more appropriate out of school. The students, who choose to participate, from Year 2 through to Year 5 will pass through the corridors of the KG 1, KG 2 and Year 1 classes. Following the parade, students may change out of their costumes. Parents are welcome to join us for this photo opportunity.

DEADLINE FOR 2010 EAIFL STUDENT WRITING COMPETITION 2010, 5 NOVEMBER

The Student Writing Competition is an important part of the Emirates Airline International Festival of Literature. One of the Festival's key aims is to encourage young people to start writing for pleasure. Last year's competition had an excellent response from budding writers all over the UAE with 22 winners selected from several thousand entries. The winners received their prizes from bestselling author Anthony Horowitz and winning short stories were published in an anthology entitled 'The Sea'. The theme of this year's short story competition is 'The Adventure'. Students are welcome to choose their own title and can submit stories in either Arabic or English. There are four categories with different word limits relating to the student's age as at 5 November, 2009:

Ages 11 and under	up to a maximum of 500 words
Ages 12 - 14	up to a maximum of 1000 words
Ages 15 - 18	up to a maximum of 1500 words

Winning entries, which we very much hope will include stories from DIA students, will be published in a dual language book of short stories. Each winner will receive a copy of the book signed by one or more of the famous writers who will be appearing at EAIFL 2010 and a selection of other books. For more information, terms and conditions and submission details, please refer to: www.eaifl.com/writingcompetition. The deadline for submitting entries is 5 November 2009.

ZAKS MONTHLY UNIFORM SALE

We are pleased to confirm that the next monthly uniform sale will be held on Monday, 9 November 2009 in the main school entrance between 11 am and 2 pm.

FINANCIAL SERVICES OFFERED BY DIA PARENT

DIA parent, Mr. Chaudhary, will be available on 28 and 29 October between 12pm - 5pm, in the main school entrance to offer financial advice and services to other DIA parents. Mr. Chaudhary may be contacted on pchaudhary@globaleye.com.

RECENT HAPPENINGS

PYP PARENT INFORMATION SESSION, 13 OCTOBER

On Tuesday, 13 October an introduction to the Primary Years Programme was held. This session involved small group activities, a brief presentation and a question and answer opportunity. Also covered was the philosophy behind the International Baccalaureate's approach to teaching and learning, as well how this applies specifically to DIA.

We would like to thank all the parents who were able to attend. If you missed this session but would like it to be repeated please email diafeedback@diadubai.com including the times or dates most convenient for you. If there is significant interest we will be happy to repeat this event.

UN MILLENNIUM 'STAND UP' CAMPAIGN, 18 OCTOBER

On 16, 17 and 18 October, millions of people around the world 'Stood Up and Took Action' against poverty in support of the UN Millennium Development Goals. DIA was pleased to be part of this global event and on Sunday, 18 October students, teachers and staff gathered in the quadrangle to add their support to the campaign. Alanah Pilling, Head Girl, gave the following address: "We are standing now with millions of people around the world on this historic day to show our commitment to the fight against extreme poverty and inequality. We only have six years left to the 2015 deadline to realise the Millennium Development Goals. Today, we stand up to inspire our leaders to act now to achieve and exceed the Millennium Development Goals; commit to ending extreme poverty and hunger; support basic and fundamental human rights and uphold the peace and security of all people. We commit to support the Millennium Development Goals and will take action through positive and focused effort within our homes, offices, schools and society."

PADIA BAKE SALE, 15 OCTOBER

The recent PADIA Bake Sale held on Thursday, 15 October was a great success with students, parents, teachers and staff enjoying the treats on offer whilst supporting a good cause.

UPDATES

DIA STAFF SUPPORTING BREAST CANCER AWARENESS PROGRAMME

This year DIA staff will again be joining the UAE breast cancer awareness programme, Safe & Sound, for the annual Pink Walkathon on Friday, 30 October at 8 am, from the front of the BurJuman Centre. The 5th BurJuman Pink Walkathon is the landmark event in BurJuman's Safe & Sound campaign, a year long initiative aimed at raising funds and awareness for the fight against breast cancer. Since the walk began in 2004, the number of people taking part has grown. Last year the event attached over 6,000 participants from all walks of life, all united in their commitment to raise awareness about breast cancer. Most importantly, breast cancer survivors also joined the crowds to show that the fight against breast cancer can be won.

Sporting pink and white Safe & Sound t-shirts and caps, men, women and children of all ages are encouraged to join this years Pink Walkathon. If you would like to show your support and walk with the DIA staff, please contact Sally Selcan via selcans@diadubai.com or visit www.safeandsound.ae for more information.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The new ASA schedule is well underway and with clubs ranging from Extreme Table Tennis to French Drama, there is something to cater for every student's interest. Full details of the activities offered and simple online registration is available on www.diadubai.com/asa. There are still a few spaces left so don't miss out!

CAR SHARE SCHEME

Parents dropping off children at school are no doubt aware of the traffic challenges. Should you be interested in joining a lift club, you will find information on the notice boards in the main entrance of the school. Contact details can be left on the forms provided, so that parents can make arrangement for lifts amongst themselves.

YEARBOOK

A limited number of 2008-2009 yearbooks are still available for sale, priced at AED 120. Please contact the main reception if you would like to purchase a copy.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

We are always keen to share student achievements and experiences in DIAlogue and we are therefore eager to hear of any recent happenings. Please forward any news to diafeedback@diadubai.com so that we can celebrate these accomplishments with the whole DIA community. We look forward to hearing from you.

COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK

If you would like to give feedback on any aspect of Dubai International Academy, we look forward to receiving your comments via diafeedback@diadubai.com.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

KG 2MQ CELEBRATE DIWALI

On 15 October, KG 2MQ culminated the Diwali festivities by having a class party which involved a puppet show, Rangoli decorations, a story about King Rama and Sita and a feast of Indian food. Indian Music set the mood for the party as the parents and children of KG 2MQ enthusiastically took part in the various activities. **Manal Qawasmeh, Elementary School Teacher**

YEAR 6 JUMEIRAH MOSQUE VISIT

On Wednesday, 14 October, Year 6 students and teachers, accompanied by some willing parent volunteers, made their way to Jumeirah Mosque where two ladies from the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding welcomed us. As part of the Year 6 Unit of Inquiry into 'Keeping the Peace', the visit helped children understand Islam's peaceful rules for living and the impact this has on our local environment and society in general. Once everyone was assembled, we were asked to take off our shoes and place them on racks outside the mosque. We then went into this beautiful place of worship and sat down in rows along the carpeted floor. Some of the children were awestruck by the architecture and patterns; they sat, eyes raised, gazing in wonder at the surroundings for some time. There was an air of calm and serenity in the mosque which transferred itself to the children, so they were all very well behaved!

Our two hosts proceeded to explain their religion to us. We all learnt many valuable and interesting facts about Islam and the Muslim culture here in the UAE. Some children volunteered to wear headdresses and enjoyed learning a little about the history of them. We were also told about the Five Pillars and how important they are to the Muslim religion. Following this, the children were allowed to wander around the mosque, looking at the different rooms and even trying out the Imam's chair for size! We also saw the electronic version of the Qur'an as well as the printed versions. After some photo opportunities, we all said thank you to our hosts and made our way back to school. **Yvonne Spowart, Elementary School Teacher**

YEAR 5 LOOKING IN THE MIRROR

Between 12 and 14 October, Year 5 students had the wonderful experience of visiting The Jam Jar Painting Studio and Art Gallery. This formed part of their 'Looking in the Mirror' Unit of Inquiry, focusing on different ways people use writing and the arts to define and portray themselves. During the visit, the students were very fortunate to have a professional artist teach them how to draw and paint a self portrait. Using a real canvas and lovely bright acrylic paints, the children had an enjoyable time expressing themselves and trying to define and portray themselves in a creative way. The results were quite astounding and each student is now the proud owner of their own self portrait! Well done Year 5 students for being such brilliant Thinkers and Risk Takers! **Lisa Engelmann, Elementary School Teacher**

YEAR 4 MUSIC ASSEMBLY

On Sunday, 11 October, Year 4 kicked off the 2009-2010 series of Elementary School concerts with a fantastic performance based on their Blue Gold Programme of Inquiry. They demonstrated some of the performance aspects of their course including learning through song and the importance of water to people in different communities. Students showed themselves to be extremely principled in their preparations for the concert, dedicating themselves to memorising all the lyrics and music and rehearsing with enthusiasm. They open-mindedly explored unfamiliar styles of music and learned to sing harmonies in up to eight parts! Special congratulations go to those Risk Takers who had solo roles and particular thanks to Ms. Sarah Knowles and Ms. Caroline Krapf for their help in preparing the students. **Sarah Perry, Elementary School Music Teacher**

"I have enjoyed Listen To The River. I like it because it's got a nice rhythm." **Kieran, 4RS**

"I thought that the Canoe Song was hard because everyone was singing different parts. I enjoy playing recorder and singing because I like to learn new songs and instruments." **Aaliya, 4CB**

"I have enjoyed playing the recorder because I like getting my fingers moving. Singing these songs has taught me not to waste water as much and I respect people who don't have water to drink." **Harrison, 4GB**

YEAR 1BH PLAYING IN DIFFERENT WAYS AT LOU LOU AL DUGONG, LAMCY PLAZA

STUDENT SURVEY REQUEST

Dear Parents,

Hi, my name is Skyler Khoury and I am a Year 5 student at DIA. I would appreciate your help in getting your child to complete the survey below for a project that I am looking into. Please forward responses to the following email, aldridge_kym@hotmail.com by 31 October 2009. If you have more than one child, please fill out the survey for both. The completed survey is for my use only and will not be sent to any other source.

Child's name (first only): _____

Age of child: _____

Female or Male: _____

Homeroom (example 5SM): _____

What is your favourite toy? _____

What do you like to play with the most? (Circle One)
Cars Dolls Action figures Dramatic role play (Dress up) Electric Toys Jewellery

Other: _____

Do you like to build things? (Circle One) Yes or No

Where is your favourite place to have a birthday/celebration party? _____

What do you like to get your friends for special occasions, birthdays and/or any other holidays?

_____

How much would you spend on a gift? _____

Thank you in advance for your help
Skyler Khoury

YEAR 3MK RISK TAKERS & COMMUNICATORS, 30 SEPTEMBER
On Wednesday, 30 September, Year 3MK demonstrated their ability to be excellent Risk Takers and Communicators at their first assembly where, as part of their Unit of Inquiry on different jobs, they spoke with enthusiasm about their favourite jobs and the training and skills needed for them.
Meetali Khanna, Year 3MK Elementary Teacher

SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

PINK MUFTI DAY

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness month and this year DIA continued to be actively involved in raising awareness for this worthy cause. On Thursday, 15 October, to coincide with other activities taking place during the month, Secondary School students took part in a pink mufti day in support of the breast cancer awareness programme, Safe & Sound. Instead of wearing school uniform students donated a minimum of AED 5 to wear pink for the day. Thank you to all the students and teachers who took part, AED 5,100 has been collected so far and will be donated to the Safe & Sound campaign.

POSTERS FOR CHANGE: A GRASSROOTS ANTHOLOGY

Last October 2008, current Year 13 student, Ammar Keshodia entered a competition, calling for artists from around the world to submit artwork in support of the now newly elected President of the United States of America, Barack Obama. Ammar's poster was chosen by acclaimed film director, Spike Lee and is now forever immortalised in the book, Posters for Change: A Grassroots Anthology, published by Taschen and soon to be released on 4 November 2009. This is truly a proud moment for Ammar and we congratulate him on his historic accomplishment. The article that follows is a write up from Ammar, explaining his motivation for entering his artwork. **Pam Parasram, Head of English**

DESIGN FOR OBAMA

In October 2008, graphic designer Aaron Perry Zucker created the website designforobama.org, where he called for designers the world over to submit art work in support of a man who showed promise of great leadership, not only within the country but also globally. When I heard of this, I wanted to be a part of it and I designed my own pro-Obama poster and submitted it to the website. My interest in politics, diplomacy, economics and international relations ignited a desire to make my own statement of opinion. I never thought much of it, but for some people it carried an inspiring message and a strong statement. For a long time, I questioned the use of an artist in the world but I've learnt that collectively their control of inspiration and meaning is powerful beyond measure.

With the 2008 American presidential election, millions across the world felt the need to take responsibility, to contribute to the hope of something greater and the desire for change. All of which were spurred from so many mistakes across so many years. Obama united the country and gave hope to the world, a great leader, willing to listen, learn and converse before all else, and that was what the world wanted. Millions of people showed their support for a man who was destined to go down in history and hundreds of artists flocked together to create the greatest design campaign possible.

After Obama's victory on 4 November 2008, we realised that we had helped to influence and make a change. It was a time where raw inspiration pervaded the air and everyone joined together in talk of how things would never be the same again. Sometime after, the founder of Design for Obama was contacted by Spike Lee, the acclaimed Oscar nominated Hollywood director. Lee wanted to create a definitive collection of the best posters that had helped contribute to the presidential campaign in a way design and art had never done before. Working with the famous art critic Steven Heller, they picked 250 of the best posters out of hundreds of contributions. These were celebrated in a commemorative book filled with the voices of inspired and hopeful designers from around the world. The book is set to be published on 4 November 2009, to mark the one year anniversary of Obama's victory. As the youngest contributor, what I am really just trying to say is, I'm proud that I was part of this historic moment in time.The poster displays names of previous American presidents with Obama's name highlighted amongst them as a change from the norm. **Ammar Keshodia, Year 13 Student**

AN ETHICS FILLED FUTURE FOR ALL!

As some of you readers may be aware, physics teacher Mr. Nazareth's brother visited DIA recently. Sadly only those students who picked the noble subject of Physics attended his lecture which took place on Sunday, 11 October in the Elementary School Sports Hall. Dr. Nazareth (PhD) is currently working in the field of cancer research and his presentation was about the future of science, a future that is definitely not that far away! Some of the advances he described may well come within our lifetimes. The speech revolved around three core subjects, Nanotechnology, Robotics and Genetics that are likely to greatly influence the way we live.

The doctor began by explaining Exponential Growth. Here is an example of exponential growth. You own a purple piggy bank. You decide to put 1 cent in the clay pig and then decide to add the double of this value every day for a month. You will find that by day 8 you will have 1.28 dollars. But here is where it gets interesting: by the end of the month, you will have amassed over 18,000,000,000 Dollars! Dr. Nazareth revealed that the progress of science in general is in fact exponential.

In Robotics: A robot is a machine body performing actions with a computer as a brain. Moore's law shows us that robots are finally able to 'think' for themselves, like in the world of the terminator. But here is the ethical question: Would creating thought for the sole purpose of serving our (ever increasingly lazy) whims be fair? Is this not slavery? In Genetics: Our laziness seems to have no bounds. The recent completion of the human genome, again thanks to advancing rates of computer processing power, has led to the identification of a gene responsible for the amassment of cellulose. This means, if it is used correctly, that exercise is a thing of the past, at least for weight loss! And finally, Nanotechnology: Dr. Nazareth described machines seemingly straight out of science fiction; with the ability to create objects in our very own living rooms! All this thanks to the manipulation of minute particles. This machine works using simple canisters of base materials to function. It builds, layer by layer, *molecule by molecule*, an object of your specification. A laptop for example, so intricate that its processing power would far exceed what we have these days. It's like a matter printer.

But when it comes to healthcare, two things Dr. Nazareth mentioned, respirocytes and nanoshells, could have amazing applications. Respirocytes, little marble like spheres about the size of a red blood cell, are able to carry many times more what the average cell can. A person treated with these would be able to hold his breath for 4 hours! This means that operations would no longer need artificial respiration, one breath would be enough to last the entire operation, maybe even without heartbeat! Nanoshells are similar; they are spheres of gold far smaller than cells that can be filled with a chemical or radioactive element. These target tumours with the help of their protein coating. Binding to their surface, they release their cargo when targeted by infra-red light or microwaves, leading to the destruction of the tumourus cells without damage to healthy neighbouring cells! A prospective cure for cancer is just around the bend. **Vincent Busselot, YEAR 11 E**

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA VISIT

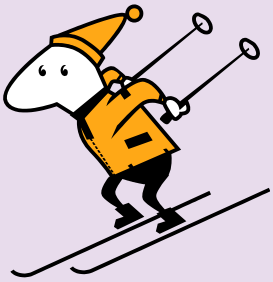
On Tuesday 13 October, we had the pleasure of welcoming Ms. Ainsley Parker of the University of Pennsylvania to DIA. Educated at the University herself, Ms. Parker, Regional Director of Admissions, provided Year 12 and 13 students and parents with a great insight into student life on campus, academics, extracurricular activities, SAT requirements, financial aid and application process.

Following the presentation, Ms. Parker spent time with Year 13 students and parents who are particularly interested in applying to the University of Pennsylvania. Students connected well with Ms. Parker and after meeting with her, the Year 13 attendees were excited about applying to the University. **Rachana Sippy, Secondary School Counsellor**

FORTHCOMING SKIING & SNOWBOARDING TRIP

26 March - 2 April 2010

There are a number of places still available for this exciting trip to Grand Massif, France. The excursion is open to all Year 9 to Year 12 students who have some previous experience of skiing, snowboarding or cross country skiing. Numbers are limited to 12 students so places can only be reserved on a 'first come, first serve' basis. For further details please contact Mihail Kouzev, Athletics Director on mihailk@diadubai.com.



HALLOWEEN IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL

The Prom Committee is actively involved in raising funds for the celebrations of the class of 2010. On 29 October, Secondary School students will dress up in their Halloween Costumes. Pizza and candy will be on sale, and students will be able to participate in a number of paid activities. During the week, candy-grams can be purchased for delivery on Thursday, 29 October. Students are reminded that costume must be appropriate.

DIA FOOTBALL RESULTS

UNDER 18 BOYS, 18 OCTOBER, DIA 2 - ASD 4

Ten minutes into the game, ASD managed to find a crack in DIA's defence and they took the lead. DIA's equalising goal came when Seri's powerful corner kick broke free from the ASD keeper, leaving Aman Ghose with an open net to score the first goal. DIA's midfielder Abdul used his skilful dribbling to pass three players and his accurate pass to Aman left him one on one with the keeper and finishing with a masterful goal. The first half ended with DIA 2, ASD 1. Unfortunately, DIA could not keep their impressive form in the second half and suffered a string of injuries. Most notable was Mehdi Rahnama who, having sustained a head injury, refused to leave the game. Due to this ASD mounted a comeback with the game ending 4-2 to ASD.

UNDER 14 GIRLS, 19 OCTOBER, DIA 2 - ASD 0

The girls under 14's had their backs to the wall at the start of their game against ASD, with constant pressure being exerted by their forwards on the DIA goal. Yet the girls withstood the pressure and 15 minutes in, started to get into their stride. A great strike from Anna before half time allowed DIA to go 1-0 ahead. Again the second half saw pressure on the DIA defence but yet again it stood firm. The result was wrapped up when a Beckham style free kick sailed into the top corner from DIA defender Abbi. Well done to all the girls and good luck in the forthcoming fixture.

VASITY UNDER 18 BOYS, 18 OCTOBER, DIA 1 - ASD 1

DIA came quickly out of the blocks against ASD to make up for the previous weeks defeat. The players were at the top of their game and by half time DIA should have been 6 or 7 goals ahead. Although we only had one solitary goal from Man of the Match, Mark to show for our endeavors. The second half continued in the same fashion with DIA producing a series of strikes on goal. Four of these goals were disallowed for various reasons by the referee. In the final 3 minutes of the game, ASD were awarded a penalty. Even though Jibran went the right way, the ball flew into the top corner. DIA pressed forward in search of a deserved winner, yet it was not to be. Well done to all the boys, and hopefully some better luck in the forthcoming fixtures.

SPORTS FIXTURES

Tuesday, 27 October, 4.00 pm	-	JV Football vs. AAG @ DIA Girls
Sunday, 1 November, 3.30 pm	-	JV Football vs. DAA @ DIA Boys & Girls
Friday, 6 November	-	Swim meet @ ASD
Saturday, 7 November	-	JV Football playoffs @ DIA
Saturday, 7 November	-	V Football playoffs/U14 Football Festival @ DAA
Monday, 9 November, All day	-	U15 Boys vs. DIS @ DIA
Tuesday, 10 November, 4.00 pm	-	U14 Football vs. AAG @ DIA girls
Tuesday, 10 November	-	U19 Boys vs. DIS @ DIS
Sunday, 6 December	-	Tennis vs. ASD

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Members of the DIA faculty have been, or will be attending, the following conferences overseas and within our region.

CONFERENCE	DATES	PARTICIPANT
Visit to The International School of the Hague to establish student and teacher exchange programmes	27 - 30 September	Poonam Bhojani, Director
IB Heads Conference Seville, Spain	13 - 16 October	David Impey, SS Principal
NESA Fall Leadership Conference Athens, Greece	22 - 25 October	Donavon Reinsmoen, Asst. Director/ES Principal Julian Wilcock, ES Deputy Principal/PYP Coordinator Robert Jennings, SS Dean of Students

CIS ACCREDITATION

The first Committee meeting for CIS Accreditation was held on 12 October, which was a scheduled whole school PD Day for staff. This committee will review the school's Mission Statement, Philosophy and Objectives and adapt it, if deemed necessary, to the changing profile of the school. CIS requires the UN Declaration of Human Rights to be implemented in the school's Mission Statement. The committee consists of representatives of the different stakeholders in the DIA community: Board, Senior Management, faculty, non teaching staff, parents and students. Poonam Bhojani, DIA Director, welcomed members to the committee and thanked them for attending. She explained the 18 month process of CIS accreditation as a journey towards self improvement; the school will be accredited based on the standards and criteria being met. This is a joint accreditation between CIS and NEASC which will be beneficial to our graduates as it will gain recognition from universities for the DIA high school diploma, and will be of particular benefit for IB Certificate students.

The Steering Committee will consist of representatives from each of the different committees; team work and collaboration being emphasised. Donavon Reinsmoen, Assistant Director and ES Principal who will head the Steering Committee, has in his long career as an educator been through several school accreditations. Alison Kyling, a member of the DIA Front Office and a parent was appointed Chair of this committee, her role is to facilitate meetings and keep things on track.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Specialist teachers met together to discuss areas of common concerns and how best to manage both their own programmes and the programmes within the homeroom classes. Areas requiring action were identified and plans for further development agreed upon. All class teachers in year level teams worked on reviewing the first semester reports, in particular linking the 1 to 7 scale with the learning outcomes to achieve a common understanding within each year level. They also reviewed the newly arrived class resources and discussed and planned how they could be best incorporated into the programme.

SECONDARY SCHOOL

Teachers worked in their departments on Curriculum Planning and Documentation. Enhancements to the curriculum in Years 10 and 11, with the view to strengthening the diploma preparation, were discussed and incorporated into the existing plans; where applicable MYP teachers worked on Interdisciplinary Unit Plans.

Pratibha Rao, Director of Studies

H1N1 INFORMATION

UPDATE ON H1N1 VACCINATIONS

Understandably, there have been some parent enquiries regarding the types of vaccinations, number of doses required, and of course the side effects of the H1N1 vaccine. According to the World Health Organisation, the H1N1 vaccine is safe and there will be separate vaccines for infants and children under 5 years. The newly approved vaccines are being manufactured by four major drug companies. As with the flu vaccine, some versions of H1N1 vaccine will contain the preservative thimerosal. The FDA warns that persons with known allergies to chicken eggs or other substances contained within the vaccine should not be given that particular type. In most ongoing trials the vaccine has been well tolerated and the most common side effect has been soreness at the site of injection.

The vaccines that have been approved contain live attenuated and inactivated strains of the virus, and these will be made available initially. There will also be a nasal spray made from a live but weakened form of the H1N1 virus. At this stage it is unclear on what will be available here, and the full advantages or disadvantages of the various vaccines. When they are ready for distribution I will provide you with all the information. **Dr. Indira George**

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE H1N1 VIRUS

Following the guidance of the Department of School Health as well as the information provided by the World Health Organisation and the US Centre for Disease Control, we continue to closely monitor our student body for any symptoms of H1N1. Everyone is encouraged to follow the precautions of washing hands frequently, using the hand sanitizer provided, coughing into your elbow, using tissues when sneezing and discarding the tissue properly. Most importantly, if you don't feel well, stay at home.

If your child is sick with flu symptoms which include a fever of 37.8 or over, cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, feeling tired and/or vomiting or having diarrhoea, please take them to a doctor and keep them at home for 24 hours after the fever has returned to normal, without the use of fever reducing drugs. This could take up to a week.

There have been cases of the seasonal flu among the students and one student who has been tested for H1N1 is likely to have contracted this flu. The Department of School Health has requested that the names of all students and faculty who may be considered to be in the high risk group be sent to them to ensure that they are a priority for immunisation. To help prevent the spread of flu, please do not send children to school if they are sick. Thank you for your continued help in keeping flu conditions minimal at school.